



Policy Proposal	Grade
<b>SB 5551—Minimum Wage Study (Hargrove):</b> Requires study to identify impact of minimum wage on jobs and business climate.	<b>A</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Provides opportunity for unbiased report on impacts of Washington's highest-in-the-nation minimum wage.	
<b>SB 5614—L&amp;I Audit (Keiser):</b> Requires annual audits of the state industrial insurance fund by the state auditor.	<b>A</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Provides transparency regarding the health of the workers' compensation system; requires L&I to adhere to the same auditing requirement as private insurance companies.	
<b>SB 5069—Family Leave Tax (Keiser):</b> Imposes a 2-cent-per-hour tax that may be passed along to all employees to fund a new government program that pays people \$250/week for up to five weeks of leave to care for new babies or sick loved ones.	<b>F</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Takes money out of people's paychecks regardless of whether their employer already provides paid leave; Unfair to single people with no children; Doesn't provide enough money to really help a person who needs the paid leave; Forces small businesses to undergo tremendous hardship when staff take the leave; Requires those who want to take the leave to apply through L&I to get their money—why not just invest in a savings account?	
<b>SB 5842—Modifying Retro Programs (Doumit):</b> Places severe restrictions on retrospective ratings programs that increase worker safety.	<b>F</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Retro companies are not required to participate in these programs and they are not complaining about the terms of their contracts; Government is interfering in private contracts between willing parties; Limits right to free association and free speech.	
<b>SB 5235—New L&amp;I fees for teen employers (Kohl-Welles):</b> Places a \$10 fee on every company that employs teen workers to fund enforcement program.	<b>F</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Punishes employers of teen workers; Will result in fewer jobs for teen workers.	
<b>SB 5240—Tougher wage payment penalties (Keiser):</b> Increases penalties for wage payment violations by up to 10 times the wage amount owed.	<b>F</b>
<b>Comments:</b> Regulatory equivalent of "Shoot first, ask questions later;" State wage/hour laws are not consistent with federal laws and this would punish businesses that didn't know the difference; no opportunity to correct—straight to penalty.	